Hydro power potential capacity

†142. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the potential of power generation of hydel sector in the country has been estimated to be more than one lakh forty eight thousand megawatt;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the total capacity being utilized for generating power, as on March, 2007;

(c) whether Government has chalked out any policy to promote setting up of power generating units in this sector; and

(d) if so, the financial incentives finalized under this policy?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per the reassessment studies completed by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 1987, the hydroelectric potential of the country, in terms of installed capacity, has been estimated to be about 1,48,700 MW out of which a capacity of 30,873 MW (20.76% of the potential) has already been developed and another 13,446 MW is under implementation.

(c) and (d) The Policy on Hydro Power Development was first announced by the Government of India in 1998. It lays emphasis on basin wise development, evolving consensus on inter state issues, mitigation of geological risks, simplified procedure for transfer of clearances, promoting joint venture arrangements etc. It also lays emphasis on increasing private investment in the power sector through Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and joint ventures. The National Electricity Policy announced in February, 2005 also lays emphasis on the expeditious development of feasible hydro potential in the country.

The Government has also announced a Mega Power Policy to incentivize development of Mega Power Projects. Under this Policy, Inter-State Power Projects of 1000 MW and above for thermal and 500 MW and above for hydro projects, qualify for fiscal concessions/benefits as mentioned below:

(i) Import of capital equipment free of customs duty.

(ii) Deemed export benefits as per the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy to the domestic suppliers.

(iii) Income Tax holiday regime as per section 80-lAofthe Income Tax Act, 1961.

Moreover for the projects located in the State of J&K, North-East and Sikkim, the corresponding threshold qualifying limit has been reduce to 700 MW for thermal and 300 MW for hydel projects.

Supply of coal for power plants

†143. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thermal power generation units are not getting the required supply of coal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.